

In the Specification

At page 1, before line 1, please insert the heading and following paragraph:

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

A1  
This application is a divisional application of U.S. Application No. 09/003,670  
filed on January 7, 1998.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-17, and amend claim 18 as follows.

- A2  
18. (Amended) An apparatus for surface treating a semiconductor wafer comprising:  
a surface treatment chamber; and  
a source of radiation illuminating a semiconductor wafer disposed inside the  
chamber under ambient pressure and atmosphere with a radiation having a wavelength in  
a near infrared range sufficient to create a plurality of electron-hole pairs near a surface of  
the wafer and to desorb any contaminant adsorbed on the surface of the wafer.

Please add the following claims:

- A3  
--27. A method for characterizing a semiconductor wafer comprising:  
restoring an inversion condition at a surface of the wafer by illuminating the  
surface of the wafer with light; and  
measuring an electrical characteristic of the wafer using the inversion condition as  
a reference point.  
28. The method of claim 27 wherein the wafer comprises a p-type wafer.